

St Mary Magdalene's Anglican Church
Moore Street, Adelaide

Reflection for the 5th Sunday of Easter

Especially when they are with their parents, children tend strongly to trust where they are being taken. At this stage of Easter we are preparing for Christ to be removed from our physical presence into a new kind of presence. In today's Gospel Jesus calls us to the fundamental relationship of trust and assures them that he is not going to abandon them when the change happens. It is important for us not to be afraid and to trust God in our roles as a royal priesthood and living stones of the Gospel.

We read today how Thomas asks Jesus where he is taking them because they do not know where this is to be. The reply from Jesus is that they trust him and must not let their hearts be troubled. He continues that he is returning to the Father and that this will one day be their final destination. With his Father there are many dwelling places – a place suitable for every single person. God will be very inclusive. Jesus goes before to prepare a place for all of us. We are not given any details except that Jesus is the Way the Truth and the Life.

We all negotiate periods of turmoil and distress when sometimes we find we need to suspend our trust in particular people or organisations. Things happen which can throw us into confusion and make our trust very difficult. Often our trust is not destroyed but rather suspended. It can be the same for us and Jesus.

At such times it is good to recall past blessings and the joy and happiness which we have experienced previously because the Jesus' effect on ours or other people's lives. Then we were able to see what happened as the work of Jesus, so why not now in our present situation? It is tragic to allow trust in Christ to fade without challenge.

At present at St Mary Magdalene's Church we are passing through very troubling times – small congregations, alarming shortfalls in income and all the problems of Covid-19. It is important that we trust in God and offer to God all the good aspects of our parish life at St Mary Magdalene's Church. It is amazing, for example, how so much that is positive has sprung up since we were forbidden to gather at church for Mass. Our Parish is blessed with much spiritual depth and much technological skill, both of which have come to the fore. This shows how far from dead our parish community is. There is much for which we can all hope.

Fr Graeme Kaines.